financial year (April-June, 1997) are as under:

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation	2.28 lakhs
Indian Oil Corporation	4.23 lakhs

(b) The number of applications for gas connections pending with both the Corporations, separately as on 31st January, 1997 is as under:

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation	37.05 lakhs
Indian Oil Corporation	75.58 lakhs

(c) and (d) Efforts are constantly on to release LPG connections to applicants as early as possible. Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher imports through existing and new facilities. Government has approved enrolment target of 10 lakh each for the first (April-June, '97) and second (July-Sept., '97) quarters of 1997-98, for country. Connections are being released to wait listed persons in a phased manner and it is expected to liquidate the total waiting list by 2001-2002.

Representation received by HPCL regarding 'Trestle Bridge'

1953. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the specific representation received by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited on the "TRESTLE BRIDGE" for pipeline coming across the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what steps are proposed to study the public demand in this regard; and

(c) the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The representation received by HPCL deals with the question whether the bridge across the river Godavari could be converted into a pipeline and cycle or scooter path.

HPCL have considered the matter. The design of the bridge has no provision for public cycle/scooter path, because of safety considerations.

Oil Companies being permitted to use HPCL pipeline

1954. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various oil companies will be permitted to use the HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited) pipeline being build in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the joint use;

(c) whether any prior consultation has taken place between HPCL and other oil companies in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for lack of co-operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The other oil companies would be assisted by way of hospitality for meeting their demand with petroleum products moved through HPCL's Vizag-Vijayawada Pipeline.

(c) The pipeline was identified on the basis of Oil Industry Working Group.

(d) Does not arise.